## The Exploits of Elaine

Detective Novel and a Motion Picture Drama

By ARTHUR B. REEVE Well-Known Novelist and the Creator of the "Craig Kennedy" Stories

Presented in Collaboration With the Pathe Players and

the Eclectic Film Company

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SYNOPSIS.

New York police are mystified by a murders and other crimes. The cal sive to the criminal is the warnter which is sent the victims, signed
a "clutching hand." The latest victhe mysterious assassin is Taylor
the insurance president. His
ter, Elaine, employs Craig Kenthe famous a lentific detective, to
unravel the mystery. What Kenaccomplishes is told by his friend,
on, a newspaper man. After many
as altempts to put Elaine and
Kennedy out of the way the Clutchand is at last found to be some other
Perry Bennett, Elaine's lawyer and
an she is engaged to marry. Benn she is engaged to marry. Ben enneti the secret of the whereabouts of the whole will suspend animation for norths. Kennedy reaches Bennett's side at after he has jost consciousness.

## TWENTY-FIRST EPISODE THE EAR IN THE WALL.

Rigine sat in the library reading one morning when her maid Marie entered carrying a long pasteboard box, dainthy tied with ribbon.

Some flowers for you, Miss Elaine, I think," she said handing the box to

Marie left the room, and Elaine, after contemplating for a moment in teen anticipation what she thought at first was a gift from Craig Kennedy, opened the box. There lay a splendid bunch of long-stemmed red and white POBER.

Nestling in the green leaves was a ittle white note. She picked it up expectantly and tore it open.

instantly, however, her anched. Instead of a billet doux, it was the most fearsome threat yet a hich the savage Chinese master crimmi, Wn Pang, had sent in the vengewendelta which he had sworn on

Elaine had scarcely time to exclaim at he dire meaning when Kennedy

f entered d morning, he greeted cheer the horrified expression on her face. "Why, what's the mat-

was too terrified even yet to Rak. All she could do was to hand

The first victim shall be Craig Cennedy or your aunt. You may house. Place the red roses in window for your lover, the hits for the silver-haired one. ie end appeared the mysteriou the serpent, darting from his a death more than figurative. what shall I do?" she ap-

did not answer directly. H ld not. Thoughtfully he walked to e window and gazed out. There was ty a dirty, bent cripple standing by corner selling papers to pedes-

pnedy's forehead wrinkled in the He turned and walked back the window. Mechanically he I up his hat and cane, then laid n the cane again.

must look into this at once," he lifting the flowers and putting n back into the box carefully, as if he expected trouble to come of the

"You you'll be very careful, Craig!" pleaded Elaine, as they left library and went into the hall. "I will be-for you," he repeated with a reassuring smile. "Oh-I forgot my cane."

ckly he returned to the library. eaving her standing in the hallway. aThere he had purposely left his stick on the table beside the flowers. He selected some from the bunch of red loses and hastly stuck them in a vase and placed the vase on the window sill. Then he picked up the cane and

rejoined Elaine in the hall. Outside the Dodge house the dirty, ent cripple looked about cautiously

out of the corner of his eye. caught sight of a mendicancy officer bearing down on him. There on the window sill of the library was a vase of red roses. Hastily be shuffled off on his way.

As fast as his supposedly bent body could straighten itself safely out he hurried downtown with one idea-to the colle to reach the secret spartment of W. . "ulenon's very fang, the serpent.

Wu, Long Sin and several other hamen were gathered about a ta which was a long oblong oak b. tened on the inside two flat speakliken-covered wire. At each the box was placed an ordinary age battery, and in a compartment tween, besides switches and :: ons, were what looked the seadgedr much resemble ; in by wireless operators.

This," said Wu, holding up a littl. harness Wu attained to the form the state of the face, is the white devil's little mechanical eavesdropper—the detection.

tered. Almost automatically, at mere sign from Wu, all the rest of the group disappeared behind screens. "Bring him in." ordered Wu as the

servant announced that a visitor was outside. Then, as the cripple entered, spryly enough now, he added: "Oh-it is you. Well-anything to report?" "Red roses," was all that the ex-

beggar in his awe at the fierce Chinaman could find words to blurt out. We nedded, "It is well. I will eall you again when I need you. You may go," he instructed.

No sooner had he gone than the others reappeared from behind their screens and other hiding places as silently as they had gone. "You will all follow me," directed

Wu, gathering together the parapherpalia and shutting the box. "Here Tom Ling, carry that box for mecarefully, too." A moment later Wu left the secret

apartment, followed by his henchmen, splitting up inconspicuously as they made their way uptown. I had come into the laboratory and,

not finding Kennedy, had decided to wait there for him. Perhaps half an hour later he came rushing in, his face clouded with thought and beads of perspiration

standing out on his forehead. "What's the trouble?" I asked anx-

"Trouble enough," he replied, fling ing off his hat and coat and throwing on his smock, as he related disjointed ly between whiles what had happened "And now I'm going to prepare for the attack, whatever it may be," he went on, going over briskly to the laboratory table. "Where's that nitrateoh, here it is."

For the next few minutes he was count of the loss of the Clutching | busily mixing several chemicals while

When he had finished he poured one liquid from a tube into an atomizer, then another of the liquids which he had made into a fleck.

"Walter," he asked, getting ready to go out and indicating to me to do the same, "I wish you'd bring along" that rug over there by my sink."

I placed the rug before our door and he emptied almost half of the contents of the flask on it. Then he entered the laboratory again, taking care not to step on the rug, but over it.

Meanwhile Wu Fang and his lieuenants had proceeded to the base ment of our apartment house.

First Wu entered the dark cellar cautiously and beckoned to Long Sin and the other Chinamen to follow. One of his followers carried the Big Six detectaphone, which he placed on an old rickety table which the janitor, Jensen, sometimes used. We opened the oak case and began

to look about for a place to install the little listening ear by wires that would run up from this cellar hiding place to our apartment above.

"Ugh! Look!" eried one of the Chinamen, pointing toward a corner of the cellar wall. Wu turned. There was a rat which

had run out of a hole, had seen them and scampered quickly across the floor and away safely. It interested Wu and he walked over

to the rathole and examined it. "Wait here," he ordered quickly, leaving his men on guard in the cellar.

It was not very many minutes later that Wu returned to the cellar with a large cardboard box under his arm. "No one has gone in, master," reported one of the Chinamen.

Wu nodded and turned to another who had been engaged in enlarging the rathole in the wall.

"Does it run upstairs?" he asked. "Yes, master," returned the other. "Then wait here," ordered Wu, taking up the detectaphone transmitter,

the spool of wire and the box. He left the cellar stealthily and a few minutes later reached the upper hall, which at the time happened to be deserted. Somehow he had obtained a skeleton key which fitted our lock, and with its aid he entered our aparement.

Quickly he looked shout the re in Finally his keen just the first many that the corner b that nearest a

Co Fig i the day

Next be give of thick pasteboard box. ierret.

This ferret wor ...her barness around his made sure Chase. and readily.

Finally he pushed the rat into the hole in the plaster which he had made, and an instant later, loosed the ferret after it, as if on a leash of wire. There Wu stood paying out the wire as the ferret scampered after the scared fat.

Wu faithfully paid cut the wire, hopcarefully.

At last the tugging at the spool of wire ceased. Three sharp lerks told him he had succeeded. Then Wu set the transmitter in the hole in the wall close up to the baseboard, which he had replaced.

Perhaps half an hour after our reurn into the laboratory after Kennedy had soaked the mat, he decided after much deliberation to attempt to carry the war into the enemy's country. We left the laboratory, he to seek some clue. I to go down to the Star, where had a little work to do.

Kennedy had scarcely bidden me good-by and turned out of the campus on the avenue, when he happened to see a face in the crowd which interested him.

It was that of the woman who had posed as Elaine-Innocent Inez. He paused a moment as she went by and gazed after her. She had not seen him. This was too good an opportunity to miss. He turned and followed her to the Mandarin, a chop sucy joint. "Is the master in?" she whispered

to the proprietor. "No," he replied, "but Long Sin is n the other place."

A short time afterward, as they still talked, Kennedy after pausing outside the chop sucy joint, decided to enter. While Inez and Sam were engaged in earnest conversation he sat down at table near by with his back to them. As nearly as he could make out, there was a room somewhere which Sin, if not Wu himself. But it was too risky to remain.

Around on Park row again, he stopped in a drug store where there was a telephone booth and called up the agency whose operatives he had frequently employed on routine matters like shadowing.

"Can you send Chase down here im-

'raig, seizing the receiver. "Hellopolice headquarters? Connect me with the Elizabeth street station, please."

He waited impatiently. "Sergeant," he shouted, "this is Kennedy, Craig Kennedy. You remember I dropped ing for the result he had calculated in there a few minutes ago and told you I was on the trail of something. Well, I've got it. The place is over the Mandarin. Have it raided at once and we'll get them. Not the Mandarin the side entrance, one flight up." He hung up the receiver. "Come, Walter," he cried. "You and Chase

> can help me now." While we hurried downtown the police were being detailed for the raid and the patrol wagon was still waiting for the squad.

We drove up in a taxicab just as the ragon swung around the corner. Almost as soon as we, the police were at the side door. Two of them rushed the Mandarin and arrested the taciturn proprietor. The rest battered down the door of the room.

It was bare. As we looked about in astounded chagrin, i saw a sign on the wall. 'Look-what's that?" I exclaimed.

It read mockingly, "FOR RENT." But underneath was that mystic coiled reptile, ready to spring, with fangs extended—the sign of the ser-

Wu Pang had already plugged in the six receivers of the detectaphone and, though we did not know it, was eagerly listening with the others down in the cellar as Kennedy gave his orders for the raid.

"Tom," muttered Wu, "you must get down there at once."

Inez and Long Sin had scarcely had time to enjoy half a dozen luxurious whilfs before the secret rapping sounded at the door. Long Sin opened it was at least one headquarters of Long and Tom, usually imperturbable, almost rushed in.

"The master-has learned-the police-raid-here," he announced, breathlessly.

Wu Fang had outwitted us and saved both Long Sin and Inez by the marvelous little eavesdropper. 

. It was some time after Kennedy nediately?" he asked, giving the ad- left the Dodge house that Elaine re-



Caught at Last!

shadowing in Chinatown for him." It was only a matter of a few minutes before Chase joined Kennedy, and together they went back to Chinatown, Craig explaining to him in a low voice just what it was he wanted

The operative furtively watched Inez and Sam talking until finally she rose and went out by the street door. She turned abruptly on the street and entered a doorway that led up in the

same building, only outside. Chase entered the dark, ill-smelling hallway and mounted the steps cautiously, careful not to make them creak. He paused at each door until he was sure that there was no one on

At one, however, he could hear low voices. He listened a moment, then may have happened?" tried the knob softly. The door was locked. Carefully he put his foot on

gripping the transom. There were Inez and Long Sin talking earnestly as Inez removed her wraps while Long Sin laid out a couple the precious hop with practiced hand. Chase let himself down as softly as he had pulled himself up, and got away without being seen.

. . . . . . . Kennedy returned to the apartment paper and handed it to me: into the after dispatching Chase on his mission, and there I met him as soon as this room. Talk about the weather drew from under his blouse. was through down at the Star office. anything-while I locate it." of the the door. Craig opened it. It was tus.

gid we shall learn all about our ene- in each hand, he let the fairet get a upstairs. I got as far as the door of the transfer mics, where to strike, when to—" proceeding at the den, saw Long Sin and that git is such incursion, heard Long Sin appeal short as a servent en squeaked in friction and specific and spec

dress of the drug store. "I've a little | turned to the library, still thinking about the note which she had received with the flowers. As she entered she hardly noticed that both Marie and

> Jennings were there. She had scarcely awakened from her day dream in which she was walking, as it were, when her quick eye caught sight of the vase of red roses on the window sill

> "Who put those flowers there?" she demanded of the astounded butler and maid, as she dashed them to the

Neither of them, naturally, knew a thing about it. Nor did Aunt Josephine, who happened to pass through the room at the moment.

"Oh, I must see him-I must," cried Elaine excitedly, as she hurried out for her wraps. "Who knows what

We returned to our apartment, chathe knob and raised himself up by grined, after out flat failure to capture either Long Sin or even get evidence againstaWu.

As we entered the apartment, Craig dropped into a chair, scowling to him of opium pipes and cooked two pills of self. I watched him in gloomy sympathy. Suddenly his face brightened. "What do you think they-"

He cut me short with his finger on his lips, pantomiming silence. Instead of answering me he wrote on a slip of

We were talking over our plans | Finally Craig went over to his desk

it was at that moment that Elaine's

car stopped outside the apartment. "Oh," she cried with an eager sigh of relief at seeing Kennedy all right, as she almost ran toward him. "I'm so glad you-"

She stopped short as Craig motioned to her to be silent. She did not under stand, and for the moment stopped nonplused, as he picked up a pencil and began to write on a pad instead of meeting her advance. An instant later her mobile face

looked up at him in wonder as she "Every word we say is being overheard through a detectaphone in the

wall. Don't be surprised at anything I say." Then he walked deliberately over to the wall near which the instrument they had each other face to face. But was concealed and leaned down to in-

sure his words being heard distinctly by those listening. "I am going over to the laboratory for an hour," he said in a loud, distinct tone. "Jameson, will you escort

miss Dodge home?" "Why, certainly," I replied with alacrity.

A moment later we all left the room. chatting in forced tones about a hundred inconsequential things. Craig banged the door.

But before we left he reached into his pocket and took out the flask and atomizer which I had seen him place there. He poured the contents of the flask on the rug.

I accompanied Elaine to her car and we drove away while Kennedy left the apartment on foot.

Downstairs. Wu Fang had been listening at the other end of the detectaphone. Their attention was soon at fever

heat when Elaine entered our rooms. Wu, Long Sin and the others listened breathlessly. The Chinamen waited until they

board us go out. Wu then handed Long Sin a vial and a key. "You understand?" "Yes, master," nodded Long Si

with an evil leer. He hastily climbed the stairs from the cellar to our apartment. For a few seconds he stood on the rug as he inserted the skeleton key in the lock. Then, swinging the door open cautiously he entered. He looked about a minute. The apartment was empty.

Slowly Long Sin walked over to the table and began examining the articles on it. Finally he picked un Ken pipe, and again his inscrutable face lighted with diabolical joy.

He took the vial quickly from his pocket, and, with a small, soft brush

painted the mouthpiece of the pipe with the liquid from the vial. He laid the pipe down as he found it and heat a hasty retreat. We had scarcely dime to drive to

reached us from Kennedy directing us to return and meet him several squares below our apartment. We did so immediately. There was Kennedy with Chase and three or four

Elaine's house when a message

policeman. "In ten minutes I want you to raid the apartment," he said, looking at his watch. "I am going in there now." He entered the building and, as he opened our own door, drew a gun, kicking the door open and retreating a step. No one was there and he

Craig looked about a moment. On the surface, nothing had been disturbed. He went through the bedrooms. Nothing was disturbed there. - Slowly he went back again to the doorway, all the time careful not to step on the rug. Starting near it, he began spraying the floor with the

It was one of his own inventions, which he called a "photo-mat." As the spray fell on the carpet and hardwood it developed Long Sin's foot-

prints exactly. Carefully Kennedy followed them as the chemicals brought them out. Long Sin had not walked around the room much, evidently, as Craig advanced slowly along the floor, still namen pushing against it, while Ken-spraying. As each step came out it was apparent that Long Sin had done little else but go to the table and

then leave. Craig looked at the table a moment. There seemed to be nothing on it that would attract a man of Long Sin's talents. Mechanically, Craig picked up his pipe lying there and looked at it contemplatively. He sniffed at the mouthpiece. There was a peachstone smell.

"Cyanide," he muttered to himself under his breath, faying the pipe down gingerly. For a moment he thought, then a sudden impulse seemed to seize him.

closer to the marked baseboard. Suddenly he uttered a sharp cry. "Hello-central! Help! I'm poisoned!"

At the same time he struck the wall

a blow as though he were falling. Down in the cellar the six Chinamen looked at each other in unfeigned delight as they heard the call for help. Quickly Wu pulled the detectaphone

receiver off his head. "Here-take this," he ordered Long "There must be a detectaphone in | Sin, handing him a paper which he

Long Sin took it and looked at it with a smile of satisfaction. He un-To this when there came a sudden knock at and took out a small piece of appara- derstood. On the paper was drawn Wu's sign of the serpent, with fangs He placed a peculiar telephonelike striking viciously and victoriously... "I've found the hangout," he cried contribute attached to one end of Beckoning to another of the Chinais proket and excitedly. "It's over that restaurant, it up to his car. he adjusted the men, Long Sin went out and upstairs. rephone—the ear in the wall. By its drew out a rat. As a sheid them, one You go in by the side entrance and magnet and carried the thing carefully Meanwhile Craig, who had been listening at the door expecting some

"Fine work. Chase," complimented a mark with a pencil on the aseboard. | chair, sprawling out rigidly, aven

Without waiting, Long Sin and his servant entered stealthily. The Chinaman stood in the doorway and Long Sin slowly crept over to Kennedy's chair.

As he reached down to pin the sign of the serpent on Kennedy's apparently lifeless body. Craig seemed suddenly to come to life. He selzed Long Sin and they struggled fiercely, while Craig, freeing one hand, whipped out his automatic and fired sideways at the Chinaman in the doorway.

The Chinaman fell, lay there a moment, then raised himself up and with fast ebbing strength managed to crawl out of the doorway and down the hall. It was a death grapple between Craig and the wily Long Sin. At last it was unequal. Short and sharp came the moves.

Craig had in his pocket a newly invented pair of handcuffs which snapped automatically over first one and then the other of Long Sin's bony wrists. Then he pressed the bracelets tighter until even Long Sin winced.

As Craig stood panting over his prisoner, the wounded Chinaman staggered downstairs until he almost fell into the cellar.

"Master," he gasped. "He is-alive!" The mere hint of Kennedy's name



"What Shall I Do?" Elaine Appeals. was as though some word of black marie had been spoken to them. The ee other Chinamen fell back as if in fear of an uncanny power.

Wu, white with anger, raised his hand, and they cowered still. "Is anyone else there with him?"

The wounded Chinaman had only strength to shake his head in the neg-"Then there is time yet," ground out Wu furiously. "Follow me."

Craig was still bending over Long Sin making sure of his capture when he heard the scurry of footsteps outside. It was Wu and his servants. Craig rushed to the door, but not in time to close it. Instantly his gun spat a fatal dab of smoke and fire at the foremost

Chinaman, who dropped. Craig seized the next ourushing Oriental and flung him over his head, butting him like a human battering ram directly into Wu. Craig's onslaught had been fiercer and more unexpected than the Chinamen had bargained for. They recoiled. Kennedy instantly slammed

the door on Wu and the rest. They recovered in a few seconds and returned to the attack, battering against the door. It swayed and creaked with the weight of the Chinamen pushing against it, while Kengun through the panels.

Down the street I wondered, as the minutes passed, what was happening behind the calm exterior of our apartment. Elaine was anxious; Chase was impatient. But I wished to be exact. As the ten minutes ended I gave the signal to the driver. The police crowded in with us and we shot around the corner and up the street. In front of the apartment we could see and hear now that shots were being fired off. Were we in time?

We dashed upstairs. As we came down the hall we caught a glimpse of Wu Fang and his underlings at our His mind was made up. He moved door. They had almost broken through.

They were too late to get Kennedy. but we were too late to get thom.

Wu knocked out the foremost policeman and dashed down the hallway with another after him. He managed to gain the roof and slamming the door up there braced it on the other side. Then, crossing the roofs, he succeeded in reaching another apartment

and escaping. "Craig," I shouted, pulling on the battered but still locked door. "This s Walter."

The door opened and we piled into Kennedy's room.

There set Long Str. at last manacled and bound, sullen, in a chair. Elaine breathed a sigh of relief as she seized both of Kennedy's hands. "You-you got him at last!" she

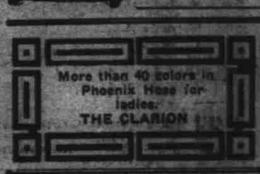
cried. "Yes," he answered, caressing her hand gently, "but there is still the master criminal."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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